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Navy's Senior Acquisition Executive Visits SPAWAR for 'Boots on the Ground' Tour

By SPAWAR Public Affairs

Dr. Delores M. Etter, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN RDA), addressed the SPAWAR community at an All Hands event June 21. Etter, who is the Navy's senior acquisition executive, visited SPAWAR as part of her week-long tour of San Diego Department of Defense, industry and private organizations that are vital to naval acquisition and research and development efforts.

"I have been very eager to get out here since I started this job. It's very important to visit you and to see first-hand what you're doing," said Etter, who was sworn into her current position in November 2005. "I do a much better job of representing your interests and the programs you're working on when I can go back to Washington and speak first-hand about what's going on."

Etter discussed a number of "big picture" issues that affect the Navy and SPAWAR community, including shipbuilding efforts, effects of the recent Quadrennial Defense Review, on-going engagement in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) and fiscal challenges associated with the fiscal 2007 budget submitted to congress.

"Shipbuilding is at top of the list of the many things that are going on today, and of course you're very involved with that because if ships can't communicate, then they can't carry out their missions. We're all trying to figure out how to get to the CNO's 313 ship plan so we have the right fleet of ships to address the threats we have," Etter explained.

During her presentation, Etter highlighted the goals she wants to achieve during her tenure as ASN RDA, which include:

- Expedite GWOT acquisition programs as much as possible without compromising safety.
- Reduce volatility in current acquisition programs.
- Develop an investment and transition strategy for science and technology to ensure future technological edge.
- Lead the Acquisition Enterprise component of the Naval Enterprise, in collaboration with OPNAV, Headquarters Marine Corps and the fleet.



Dr. Delores M. Etter, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, addresses the SPAWAR community at an All-Hands event June 21.

In addition to covering strategic issues affecting the naval and acquisition communities, Etter stressed the importance of quality, dedicated personnel that compose the naval workforce.

“I look across our Navy and I’m pleased see so many strong leaders. We have outstanding people, and I’m standing in front of a large group of those outstanding people today,” Etter noted. “Be proud of what you are doing and know that you are part of a world class organization.”

Concluding the All Hands, Etter recognized Phyllis “Ann” Howell with an “On the Spot Award” for her selection as the Department of the Navy’s 2005 Small Business Specialist of the Year. Howell’s efforts on behalf of SPAWAR Systems Center Charleston also contributed to the systems center receiving the first Outstanding Compliance Review Award ever given by the Small Business Administration.